

REMARKS**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102**

Applicants submit that Rappaport does not envisage ongoing maintenance or adjustment of the network.

The present invention is directed towards aiding the addition of a subscriber station to a network. Claim 1, therefore, has been amended and now recites the step of "receiving a request including a proposed change comprising the addition of an additional subscriber station" to clarify this.

In contrast Rappaport is concerned with allowing a designer to ensure adequate coverage throughout the network prior to placing out the components of the network. For example, lines 51 to 57 of Column 3 state that "the placement of components can be refined and fine tuned prior to actual implementation of a system to ensure that all required areas of the facility are blanketed with adequate RF coverage or system performance and that there are no areas with insufficient RF coverage, known as "dead zones", or poor network delay, "known as outages".

For these reasons Applicants submit that one skilled in the art on reading Rappaport would only learn a way of setting up a network initially so that and dead zones, outages or even interference between two separate wireless networks, as shown in Figure 3, would be minimized. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would not learn to receive "a request including a proposed change to the communications network" as presently claimed.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Rappaport only describes refining the selection or placement of the fixed wireless network components may be altered. Nowhere does Rappaport disclose or suggest "selecting a channel for communication between the additional subscriber station and the chosen base station on the basis of a fixed frequency plan" as presently claimed in Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art on reading Rappaport would only learn to alter how the individual components were directed or placed and not to choose the frequency with which the subscriber station communicates with the base station. By allowing a channel selection process the present invention allows a much faster adaptation of the network to incorporate extra subscriber stations as they are added to the network.

For these reasons Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by Rappaport.

Claims 17 and 18 claim a computer system and computer program arranged to carry out the steps of Claim 1 respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 17 and 18 are not anticipated by Rappaport.

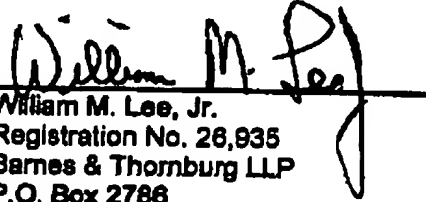
Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 20. Claim 19 claims a communications network in which the method of Claim 1 is effected. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 19 is not anticipated by Rappaport.

Applicants submit that Claims 2 to 16 are not anticipated by Rappaport at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Given the above, the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration is urged.

July 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)